

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph (0019) with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] In this application, reference to the tile substratum being “self supporting” means that it has sufficient strength that when the substratum is resting on a cabinet base or other type of counter top base, and is supporting a tile array, the substratum will substantially maintain its shape under normal conditions of substratum use. Thus, the substratum 100 of FIG 1 is designed to maintain its configuration (under its own weight and the weight of tiles it is supporting) when it is resting (generally horizontally) on a cabinet base 104 such as shown in FIG 2A, that has about a 24 inch span 104A. The cabinet base 104 typically comprises vertical walls configured with an opening between the vertical walls. The cabinet base may have stringers (not shown), corner pieces 105, or other hardware to enable the substratum 100 to be secured to the walls of the cabinet base, as is well known to those in the art. In this application, reference to a substratum being supported directly on a “cabinet style base” is intended to include a [cabinet] base of the type shown in FIG 2A that has vertical walls, with a opening between the vertical walls, and which may have stringers, corner pieces or other hardware that enables a substratum to be secured to the [cabinet] base, and with the substratum resting directly on the vertical walls and covering the opening (see FIGS 2 and 2A).